



THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301-1200

SEP 17 2002

HEALTH AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, ARMED FORCES
EPIDEMIOLOGICAL BOARD

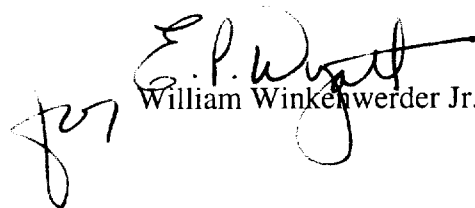
SUBJECT: Public Health Advisory Board to the Centers for Deployment Health

On September 30, 1999, the DoD Centers for Deployment Health were established as directed by section 743 of the Strom Thurmond National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999. The Centers for Deployment Health represent a key public health initiative for the Department of Defense. The goal of the centers is to improve our ability to identify, treat, and minimize or eliminate the short and long-term adverse effects of military service on the physical and mental health of veterans.

The Research and Clinical Center Directors agree that cutting edge epidemiologic principles form the backbone of each center and that mission success will require coordinated public health advice and expertise beyond current center capabilities. In this regard, they have requested the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board (AFEB) serve as a public health advisory body and provide a forum for program review and coordination of ongoing research and clinical efforts.

As a continuing scientific advisory body to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs and the military Surgeons General, the AFEB is an appropriate scientific body to provide this periodic external review. I would like the AFEB to meet with the Research and Clinical Center Directors and receive mission briefs. Using the information obtained from these briefs, the AFEB should develop, in coordination with the Directors, an appropriate strategy to accomplish an ongoing program review and appointment of an AFEB Select Subcommittee to serve as a public health advisory board for the DoD Research and Clinical Centers for Deployment Health.

I request the Board address this issue at the February 2003 AFEB meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E.P. Winkenwerder", is written over the printed name. To the left of the signature is a large, stylized "for" written in ink.
William Winkenwerder Jr., MD